

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for a radio communication system (100) comprising:
means for receiving an access message transmitted from a subscriber unit (101) to a base station (103);
means for receiving a measured signal to interference ratio of a signal of the base station data from the subscriber unit;
means (111) for determining an interference characteristic associated with the subscriber unit in response to the measured signal to interference ratio and a known transmitted signal to interference ratio of the base station; and
means (113) for determining a resource requirement for achieving a desired signal to interference ratio in response to the interference characteristic.
2. (original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the means for determining the interference characteristic is operable to determine a distance characteristic indicative of a distance between the subscriber unit and the base station and to determine the interference characteristic in response to the distance characteristic.
3. (original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 2 wherein the means for determining the interference characteristic is operable to determine the distance characteristic in response to a propagation delay associated with a communication between the subscriber unit and the base station.
4. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 2 or 3 wherein the distance characteristic comprises a ratio between an estimated distance between the subscriber unit and the base station and a cell radius associated with the base station.
5. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any of the previous claims 2 to 4~~ wherein the means for determining the interference characteristic is operable to determine the interference characteristic in response to a predetermined variation of the interference characteristic as a function of the distance characteristic.

6. (canceled).

7. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any of the previous claims 2 to 6~~ wherein the means for determining the interference characteristic is operable to determine the interference characteristic in response to empirical data indicating an association between the interference characteristic and the distance characteristic

8. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any of the previous claims 2 to 7~~ wherein the means for determining the interference characteristic is operable to determine the interference characteristic in response to simulation data indicating an association between the interference characteristic and the distance characteristic

9-11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim ~~4 to 1~~ wherein the interference characteristic comprises an intra-cell interference ratio and the means for determining the interference characteristic is operable to compensate for an inter-cell interference component of the measured signal to interference ratio.

13. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any of the previous claims 9 to 12~~ wherein the signal measurement data comprises measured signal to interference ratios associated with the base station and a plurality of neighbouring neighboring base stations and the means for determining the interference characteristic is operable to determine the interference characteristic comprising an inter-cell interference measure in response to the measured signal to interference ratios associated with the base station and the plurality of neighbouring neighboring base stations.

14. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in any previous claim 1 wherein the means for determining the interference characteristic is operable to determine an interference bias associated with the subscriber unit and to determine the interference characteristic in response to the bias.

15. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in any previous claim 1 wherein the interference characteristic comprises an inter-cell interference factor.

16. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 15 wherein the means for determining the interference characteristic is operable to determine the inter-cell interference factor in response to a path loss estimate of a radio communication link between the subscriber unit and the base station and path loss estimates of radio communication links between the subscriber unit and a plurality of neighbour neighbor base stations.

17. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in any previous claim 1 wherein the interference characteristic comprises an intra-cell interference factor.

18. (original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 17 wherein the intra-cell interference factor comprises an intra-cell orthogonality factor.

19. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in any previous claim 1 wherein the means for determining the resource requirement is further operable to determine the resource requirement in response to a noise level.

20. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in any previous claim 1 wherein the resource requirement is a power requirement.

21. (canceled).

22. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in any previous claim 1 further comprising means for determining if the resource requirement is less than an available resource of the base station and for admitting access of the subscriber unit only if the resource requirement is less than the available resource.

23. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in any previous claim 1 wherein the resource requirement is associated with a downlink resource of the base station.

24. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in any previous claim 1 wherein the radio communication system is a CDMA communication system.

25. (currently amended) A method of radio access management for a radio communication system, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving an access message from a subscriber unit (101) at a base station (103);

receiving a measured signal to interference ratio of a signal of the base station data from the subscriber unit;

determining (111) an interference characteristic associated with the subscriber unit in response to the measured signal to interference ratio and a known transmitted signal to interference ratio of the base station; and

determining (113) a resource requirement for achieving a desired signal to interference ratio in response to the interference characteristic.